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Annex "A," Subparagraph 1g

Sociological Background

FAMILY

594 In modern Finland the family has steadily been losing the position it once had in the so-

591 ciety. A real clan system has never been known among the Finns, but among the Karelians there have been large families, married sons staying with their wives and children in the parents' household. The usual custom, still observed among the Finnish farmers, has been for the owners to retire into a separate building on the farm after turning over the estate to their son. In recent years the housing shortage caused by the war has compelled many young couples, especially in the cities, to stay with the wife's or the husband's parents for a

591 longer time--a situation that has brought many difficulties for everyone involved.

162 Wars have contributed to the predominance of the female population. While in 1938 there were 1047 females for every 1000 males, in 1944 the figure had risen to 1092. There were about 30,000 or 8-9 per thousand new marriages in 1939, but immediately after the war the figure rose to 50,000 or 11-13 per thousand a year. Now it is approximately on the pre-war level; in 1951 32,143 new marriages (7.9 per thou-
582 sand) took place. The severe housing shortage
[362] and difficult economic conditions have greatly contributed to a rise in the average age for marriage. Today it is around twenty-five, somewhat more for men and somewhat less for women, while the legal age is eighteen for men and seventeen for women.